



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IC 14 AUS-00 CIAE-00 CODE-00
PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-10
SMS-01 SY-05 SYE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 OCT-02 NSCE-00
SSC-00 INRE-00 SVC-00 /100 W

-----121102 171443Z /42

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1989

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR VAIGENGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY John Kelley DATE 8/14/89

(☒) DECLASSIFY
(☐) DECLASSIFY in PART
(☐) Non-responsive info.

FOR EO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:

(☐) CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
(☐) DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 2363

KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/17/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. EXEM. OR-M

TAGS: ASEC PDIP PEPR PINS PINT SHUM AF

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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REF: KABUL 2326 ✓

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: SECURITY REMAINS TIGHT IN KABUL AFTER THE 'ID
HCLTAXVZUCFYFZLNPFZ (#)

REOPENED ON AUGUST 16, BUT KABUL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE TOLD THAT DAY THAT THEY WERE BEING GIVEN A MONTH'S "HOLIDAY." ALSO ON AUGUST 16, KARMAL APPOINTED A THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, CAUSING OBSERVERS TO CONCLUDE THAT THE KHALQ-PARCHAM FEUD IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE. SOME 200 PRISONERS RELEASED AS AN 'ID GESTURE ARE SAID TO HAVE AGREED TO FIGHT FOR THE REGIME IN RETURN FOR THEIR FREEDOM. DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS OF POLITICAL FIGURES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SHELVED AS RUMORS CONTINUE TO SURFACE THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SARWARI (A KHALQI) IS STRONGLY RESISTING HIS EXILE TO MONGOLIA. THE REGIME MOVED TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR WESTERN JOURNALISTS TO SNEAK INTO THE COUNTRY AND THE CURFEW HAS BEEN MOVED BACK TO 11 P.M. END SUMMARY.

3. POLICE INTENSIFIED SPOT CHECKS OF KABUL VEHICLES DURING THE PAST WEEK. DIPLOMATS HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PRODUCE IDENTITY CARDS AT THE EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF ROAD BLOCKS IN THE CITY. AT NIGHT, SOVIET TROOPS HAVE BEGUN ASSISTING THE POLICE IN MANNING THE ROAD BLOCKS. SOVIET ARMOR REMAINS IN PLACE AT ROAD BLOCKS ON MAJOR ARTERIES LEADING INTO THE
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CITY. SPORADIC FIRING OF SMALL ARMS AND HEAVIER GUNS HAS BEEN HEARD THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, AND RUMORS OF IMPENDING VIOLENCE AND DEMONSTRATIONS ARE STILL CIRCULATING DESPITE THE LACK OF ACTIVITY DURING 'ID.

4. KABUL GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOLS REOPENED WITHOUT INCIDENT ON AUGUST 16. STUDENTS WHO REPORTED TO THE UNIVERSITY, HOWEVER, WERE TOLD THAT THEY WERE ON "VACATION" FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER MONTH. PROFESSORS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE EXPECTED TO COME TO WORK, PERHAPS TO LEARN WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM UNDER THE REPORTED NEW SYSTEM ESTABLISHED BY A SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER

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OF EDUCATION LAST WEEK. THE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FRESH EXAMS FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO FLUNKED OR MISSED THE LAST ONES WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 27.

5. KABUL RADIO ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 16 THAT THE POLITBURE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PDPA AND THE PRESIDIUM OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAD JOINTLY AGREED TO ELEVATE JUSTICE MINISTER ARYAN TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RANK (WHILE RETAINING HIS JUSTICE PORTFOLIO) AND TO MAKE SALEH MOHAMMAD ZERAY A MEMBER OF THE PRESIDIUM. ALTHOUGH HIS NAME WAS NOT MENTIONED, SEVERAL LOCAL PUNDITS HAVE SPECULATED THAT THESE MOVES PRESAGE THE OUSTER OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SARWARI. ARYAN IS A PARCHAMIST WHO KEEPS A LOW PUBLIC PROFILE BUT IS VERY ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES, AND VERY CLOSE TO KARMAL. ZERAY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A KHALQI WHO SEEMS TO HAVE MADE PEACE WITH KARMAL'S PARCHAMISTS. THERE IS WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT ZERAY'S ELEVATION IS A SOP TO THE KHALQIS, BUT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT THAT THEY WILL LOOK UPON IT AS ADEQUATE.

NOTE BY OC/T: (*) AS RECEIVED, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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SSC-00 INRE-00 /100 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7990

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6. SABRAK KARMAL ISSUED A DECREE AUGUST 11 FREEING 206 (NON-POLITICAL) PRISONERS IN CELEBRATION OF THE ISLAMIC FEAST OF 'ID-UL-FITR. MOST OF OUR CONTACTS QUICKLY EXPLAINED TO US THAT THE PRISONERS HAD ONLY BEEN RELEASED AFTER AGREEING TO FIGHT AGAINST DISSIDENTS FOR THE REGIME. MOST OF THOSE RELEASED
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ARE BEING DESCRIBED AS "WELL-KNOWN CUTTHROATS" AND EMBOSSES HAVE BEEN WARNED TO KEEP ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS CAREFULLY LOCKED.

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ONE AFGHAN SOURCE LOOKED UPON THE MOVE AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE DESPERATE STRAITS OF THE DRA IF IT COULD ONLY FIND "HARDENED CRIMINALS" TO FIGHT ITS OPPONENTS.

7. RUMORED APPOINTMENTS OF SEVERAL SENIOR KHALQIS HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE, AND SEVERAL DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE MOVES HAVE BEEN PUT ON ICE. THE APPARENT REASON FOR THE DELAY IS THE STUBBORN REFUSAL OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SARWARI (STILL BELIEVED TO BE IN THE USSR DESPITE RUMORS THAT HE RETURNED BRIEFLY TO KABUL LAST WEEK) **TO GO TO MONGOLIA AS AFGHAN AMBASSADOR. MOREOVER, THE OTHER KHALQIS INVOLVED REPORTEDLY ARE DIGGING IN THEIR HEELS UNTIL SARWARI IS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO HAVE A CONFRONTATION WITH KARMAL'S PARCHAMISTS.** MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO THE PAKISTANI CHARGE, THE MFA IS MOVING AHEAD TO SEND CAREER DIPLOMATS ABROAD AS CHARGES TO BERLIN, MOSCOW, HAVANA AND ISLAMABAD.

8. THE DRA CEASED ISSUING VISAS AT KABUL AIRPORT LAST WEEK **TO ANYONE EXCEPT SOVIETS. THAT FACILITY HAD BEEN A MAJOR LOOPHOLE THROUGH WHICH WESTERN JOURNALISTS WERE ABLE TO ENTER THE COUNTRY AS "TOURISTS".** EMBOFFS SAW ONE WESTERNER AND TWO OTHERS REFUSED ENTRY AT THE AIRPORT ON AUGUST 16, BUT AT LEAST ONE JOURNALIST (A FRENCHMAN -- PROTECT) MANAGED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY ON AUGUST 14 BY LAND FROM PESHAWAR.

9. PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF CONTINUING RUMORS OF IMPENDING VIOLENCE AND THE ENTRY INTO KABUL OF "HUNDREDS" OF RESISTANCE FIGHTERS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE REGIME PUSHED BACK THE CURFEW IN THE CITY TO 11 P.M. AS OF AUGUST 16. AMERICANS, OF WHOM WE COUNT ABOUT 40, HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO BE OFF THE STREETS BY 10 P.M.

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